Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT JERUSALEM 1173 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA TEL AVIV USUN PARIS DAPED AUG 03:

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1173

PARIS FOR UNESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: UNESCO, IS

SUBJ: NEW GATE IN OLD CITY WALLS

- 1. PRESS REPORTS AUGUST 3 PROPOSAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GATE IN THE OLD CITY'S WALLS BETWEEN ZION AND DUNG GATES TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO LARGE UNDERGROUND PARKING FACILITY TO BE BUILT IN JEWISH QUARTER.
- 2. REPORT STATES PROPOSAL WILL SOON BE PRESENTED
 TO PLANNING AUTHORITIES BY CORPORATION FOR THE
 RECONSTRUCTION OF THE JEWISH QUARTER. EARLIER PLANS
 FOR AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN DROPPED
 BECAUSE OF EXPENSEAND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH ARCHAEOLLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OGICAL REMAINS AND FACT TUNNEL WOULD CROSS CHURCH PROPETY. CARS ENTERING THROUGH THE NEW GATE WOULD EMERGE INTO A SQUARE AND THEN DESCEND INTO AN UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE FOR 600 VEHICLES.

3. COMMENT: PRESS REPORT CONFIRMS RECENT

COMMENTS BY MAYOR KOLLEK TO CONGEN. PRESENT ACCESS TO JEWISH QUARTER THROUGH JAFFA GATE AND ARMENIAN QUARTER IS THROUGH NARROW WINDING STREETS WITHOUT SIDEWALKS. ZION GATE UNSUITABLE FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. PRESUMABLY, NEW GATE WOULD BE BUILD TO WEST OF BURJ EL KABRIT (MIGDAL GOFRIT) POINT OF OLD CITY WALLS. ALTHOUGH DESIRABLE FROM MODERNIZATION STANDPOINT, ANY BREACH IN SULEYMAN THE MAGNIFICENT' 16TH CENTURY WALLS BY ISRAELIS CERTAIN TO CAUSE A STIR IN THE UN. END COMMENT.

4. MAYOR KOLLEK ALSO TOLD CONGEN MAJOR STRUCTURAL CHANGE WERE PLANNED FOR DUNG GATE TO ENLARGE AND BEAUTIFY IT. NEWLIN UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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